

improve their school attendance. I think this is unfair to a group of families that are struggling anyway. "Learnfare" is kind of a generic term for state efforts to make a family's grant amount contingent upon the school attendance of children in the family. And I just think that it targets teen parents, ages 16 to 19, who have dropped out of school under the Family Support Act, and generally requires they either attend school or participate in another education or employment activity. So the ADC child who's under age 16, the mother is struggling, the parents are struggling to try to keep going, and they have these small benefits that they're getting. Remember, again, that we're talking about women and children, you have to have the child to get the benefit. And the benefit is not a whole lot. If I remember correctly it's \$393 plus \$71 for each child after the 393. Nobody is going to get wealthy on that. And for me saying that the children have to be kept in school and/or they take away part of the benefits, I just really think that is punitive. And I think it's discouraging for these people who are struggling to keep going to have their benefits cut because one child won't go to school. Has any of you in here ever had a child who didn't want to go to school? I have. I surely can't believe any of you who have children or grown children haven't had at least one of them that resisted going to school at one time or another. And sometimes you get the point where you think, well, maybe I'll just go away and let that child decide what he or she wants to do, because it gets to that point sometimes. There are all kinds of mitigating factors that children have reasons for getting up in the morning and have a stomachache, or other kinds of aches and pains and don't want to go to school. And so I just think that we are singling out a group of people here and saying your children have to go to school or we're going to take away your money. I don't think that's fair. I think "learnfare" is unfair. So I'm asking you to support this amendment. I'll be glad to answer any questions that I can. At this time also I am going to ask the Pages to come and hand out this blue sheet that I've been looking at, because I think it's just a very knowledgeable piece that shows you many of the myths about ADC and backs up with facts what really happens. So, as I say, I hope you will support this amendment to take away the "learnfare" part of this section of the bill...of the committee amendments, and if you have any questions I'll be glad to try to answer them.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Wesely, your light is next.